

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An ink recording element comprising a support having thereon a hydrophilic absorbing layer and an absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer comprising a derivatized poly(vinyl alcohol) having at least one hydroxyl group replaced by ether or ester groupings.
2. The ink recording element of claim 1 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer comprises acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol).
3. The ink recording element of claim 2 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer further comprises a vinyl latex polymer.
4. The ink recording element of claim 2 wherein said acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of saponification of 80 to 100%.
5. The ink recording element of claim 2 wherein said acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of modification of 2.5 to 15 mol%.
6. The ink recording element of claim 2 wherein said acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol) has a molecular weight of 15, 000 to 150,000.
7. The ink recording element of claim 2 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer comprises a polyurethane dispersion.
8. The ink recording element of claim 7 wherein the weight ratio of derivatized poly(vinyl alcohol) to polyurethane dispersion is between 50:50 and 95:5.

9. The ink recording element of claim 1 further comprising at least one hydrophilic inner layer between said hydrophilic absorbing layer and said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer.

10. The ink recording element of claim 9 wherein said inner layer is present in a dry thickness amount of between 0.5 and 5 microns.

11. The ink recording element of claim 9 wherein said inner layer comprises a poly(vinyl alcohol).

12. The ink recording element of claim 11 wherein said inner layer further comprises latex polymer.

13. The ink recording element of claim 11 wherein said inner layer further comprises a polyurethane dispersion.

14. The ink recording element of claim 13 wherein the weight ratio of poly(vinyl alcohol) to polyurethane dispersion is between 50:50 and 95:5.

15. The ink recording element of claim 1 wherein said hydrophilic absorbing layer further comprises gelatin.

16. The ink recording element of claim 15 wherein said gelatin comprises acid processed osseine gelatin.

17. The ink recording element of claim 15 wherein said gelatin comprises pigskin gelatin.

18. The ink recording element of claim 16 wherein said gelatin comprises modified pigskin gelatin.

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19. The ink recording element of claim 1 wherein said hydrophilic absorbing layer is present in a dry thickness of from 5 to 60 microns.

20. The ink recording element of claim 1 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer is present in a dry thickness of between 0.5 and 5 microns.

21. The ink recording element of claim 1 further comprising dye mordants.

22. The ink recording element of claim 1 wherein said recording element is an inkjet recording element.

23. An ink printing method comprising providing an ink recording element comprising a support having a hydrophilic absorbing layer and an absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer comprising a derivatized poly(vinyl alcohol) having at least one hydroxyl group replaced by ether or ester groupings; and applying liquid ink droplets thereon in an image-wise manner.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer comprises acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol).

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer further comprises a vinyl latex polymer.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer further comprises a polyurethane dispersion.

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27. The ink recording element of claim 26 wherein the weight ratio of derivatized poly(vinyl alcohol) to polyurethane dispersion is between 50:50 and 95:5.

28. The method of claim 23 wherein said ink recording element further comprises at least one hydrophilic inner layer between said hydrophilic absorbing layer and said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer.

29. The method of claim 23 wherein said hydrophilic absorbing layer comprises gelatin.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said gelatin comprises acid processed osseine gelatin.

31. The method of claim 23 wherein said absorbing hydrophilic overcoat polymer layer further comprises a latex polymer.

32. The method of claim 23 wherein said acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of saponification of 80 to 100%.

33. The method of claim 23 wherein said acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of modification of 2.5 to 15 mol%.

34. The method of claim 23 wherein said acetoacetylated poly(vinyl alcohol) has a molecular weight of 15, 000 to 150,000.

35. The method of claim 23 wherein said ink recording element further comprises dye mordants.

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36. The method of claim 23 wherein said recording element is an inkjet recording element.

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